

# SOMERVILLE BICYCLE COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

**Joseph A. Curtatone**

**Mayor**

### Community Representatives

Brian C. Postlewaite, Chairman  
Charles Denison, Vice Chairman  
Enid Kumin, Secretary  
Jing Dai  
Peter Coyle  
Jim Gallagher  
Ron Newman  
Alan Moore  
Doris Schartel

### Ex-Officio

Mike Lambert, Office of the Mayor  
Bob Trane, Board of Alderman  
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works  
Terry Smith, Traffic & Parking  
Stephen Winslow, Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development  
Chief Anthony Holloway, Police Department

MEETING MINUTES: Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 7:10 p.m., City Hall

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING: Ron, Brian, Enid, Jim, Charles

EX-OFFICIO ATTENDING: Steve W.

GUESTS ATTENDING: Steve DaSilva, Lauren Clayton

### PROCEDURAL BUSINESS:

1. Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.
2. Minutes: The Committee voted all in favor to approve the March 2009 meeting minutes, as amended.
3. Committee Organization:
  - Brian sent out a copy of the Public Meeting Law (State of Massachusetts) to the Somerville Bike Committee (SBC). Instead of having subcommittees, since these subcommittees would need to follow the meeting laws (take minutes etc.), the SBC will have 'projects' that one committee member will report on at the monthly meetings. The committee was reminded about open meeting laws with respect to the email list serve; all decisions and discussions should happen in the monthly meetings and not through emails.
  - Voluntary budget. The SBC would like to have a voluntary budget, to cover minor expenses that are currently being paid for by individuals (Example: copies or maps for the Somerville Historic Bike Rides). The committee would like to share the cost of these expenses. Jim has volunteered to organize the budget. With this in mind, maybe in future years we could ask the city for a budget.
4. Membership: Steve DaSilva update: (Steve W.) It is in progress.

### PROJECT UPDATES:

1. Infrastructure:
  - Somerville/Beacon Intersection: Brian sent Steve W. intersection plan. DCI is the contractor through DPW, but DCI is not authorized to do anything. Steve W. to follow-up with DPW. Lane striping is scheduled for the fall of this year.
  - Layouts proposed: Striping budget not yet released.

- Elm Street: Brian looked at Elm St. and concluded sharrows seem to be the only option for lane marking there.
  - Cedar & Mossland: Bike box on Mossland? Sharrows seem to be the only marking option there. Bike boxes are not MUDCT, so do we want to use them? Parking on both sides (only 26 feet wide). Cedar only has parking on one side, so a bike lane could fit there.
  - White Street (Cambridge): Not discussed.
  - Layouts to be planned: Brian, Charlie, and Lauren to measure the following:
    - Broadway:
    - Washington St (Union to Beacon): This is a truck route.
    - Willow Ave (Highland to Broadway):
  - Community Path Update (Steve W.): Test pits dug in the Cedar to Willow stretch, since the city has some money for a drainage project in this area, due to flooding and cracked pavement. For the Cedar to Central section of the Community Path, Steve W. has a scope of work that is a work in progress.
2. Events:
- Bicycle Tour of Historic Somerville (Ron): Ron did a ride around for the tour route. Ron will send out a draft route to the group.
  - Art Beat (Brian): STEP will do their own booth, so we (SBC) are on our own. We will need to pay for the full booth. Maybe we can share a booth with the Friends of the Path? Should we be close to the bike valet for cycling exposure?
3. Route Planning:
- Union Square (Brian): SBC members should forward comments to Alan.
  - New Map Complete (Steve D.): Final April version including page one (bicycle safety tips) will be forwarded to the SBC.
4. Education/Outreach:
- (Brian) How do distribute the new map? We could put up the bike maps at bus stops. There is the Planning Town Hall the weekend of April 25<sup>th</sup>, copies of the map could be handed out there. Should we drop off copies at Somerville bike shops?
  - Annual Report (Brian): No update. Brian to forward.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

1. OSPCD Bike Plan: (Steve W.) The current bike map shows existing facilities, but a bike accommodations plan should be created, showing future plans. The plan should include the proposed streets with their widths and striping configurations.
2. Proposed Bike Lane Ordinance: No update.
3. Pedestrian Crossing Timing Policy: (Steve W.) The city has no interest in doing pedestrian lead phasing at this time. Charlie discussed automatic versus button prompted phasing (which we should bring to the attention of the city transportation director).

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Beacon Hotel: (Steve W.) A final plan is needed for the drop off zone in front of the hotel, and how that will effect the bike plan. Nothing specific to respond to now.
2. Magoun Square Construction: The stimulus package includes funding for this. Sidewalks were narrowed so the curb to curb width could be increased, so bike lanes could be striped here. The vehicle lanes need to be 10 ft to have bike lanes, but the Masshighway department wants 11 ft lanes for travel lanes that have bus routes. Other cities have constructed 10ft travel lanes with bike lanes, that have bus routes on them. **Proposal**: Charles made a motion to write a letter to the mayor, to communicate that the SBC is concerned that there will not be bike lanes at Somerville Ave/Beacon St. and Broadway at Magoun Square. We would like to bring this to the attention of the mayor recognizing that the design deadline is June 29<sup>th</sup> (for Magoun Square). The letter should include that this issue is important because it A) Supports the mayor's expressed commitment to a Somerville-wide bike lane network and B) These sections of bike lane are very important links to the Somerville and regional bike lane network. The letter should be written, vetted and sent to the mayor before the next SBC meeting. **Vote: All in favor with Steve W. abstaining from the vote.**
3. March STEP Meeting: No update.
4. Tour de Trees route through Somerville, July 24: This is a week long bike tour. The Nashua to Boston section leader Jenny is wondering if we have any input on the route. Are Permits needed? The SBC recommends they contact the police and let them know they will be coming through. Historic trees on route? Ron will talk with the historic society about historic trees in the city and Steve W. with check with the Conservation Commission. Groundwork Somerville and the Garden club could be contacts also. It was suggested that they go down the Minuteman Path if they are coming from Arlington.
5. East Arlington Mass Ave Reconstruction: The current plan has bike lanes, but a group of residents and concerned citizens

think that Mass Ave does not need bike lanes, since the Minuteman Path parallels Mass Ave. There will be a meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> and there is a need for bicycle advocates to voice their opinions. Bike lanes are needed for cyclists to access the businesses in that neighborhood.

6. Other News:

- Cyclist counts on Beacon St. and the Community Path will be done soon.
- May 16<sup>th</sup> will be the Cambridge bike ride – the theme is ‘Literary Cambridge.’
- Bikeweek is May 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. There is a need for leaders for the organized rides, and SBC would like to organize a Bikeweek breakfast at the Sherman Café.
- Willow St. bike lane paint is worn off. Thermoplastic paint will be use in the future, since it was known that this street was going to be repaved.
- Bike rack issues should be reported to 311, they are not a SBC issue.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting is 7:00 p.m., May 19, 2009 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve DaSilva, Acting Meeting Minute Taker